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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 17, 2003**

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### **ROUND ROCK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER FOR DEATHS OF GRANDMOTHER AND HER 9 YEAR OLD GRANDDAUGHTER**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on September 16, 2003, Johnny Orsinger, 18, of Round Rock, Arizona, pled guilty to and Indictment charging: First Degree Premeditated Murder; Car Jacking; First Degree Felony Murder - Robbery; Robbery; First Degree Felony Murder - Kidnaping; and Kidnaping.

The defendant was part of a group that decided to commit a robbery on the Navajo Indian Reservation. On or about October 26, 2001 the defendant and Lezmond Mitchell left from Round Rock, Arizona for Gallup, New Mexico to steal a truck to use in the robbery. On October 28, 2001, 65 year old Alyce Slim and her 9-year old granddaughter, Tiffany Lee, left Fort Defiance, Az to meet with a couple of medicine ladies in New Mexico.

On October 28, 2001 the defendant and Mitchell obtained a ride from Ms. Slim who had been in New Mexico that day and was returning home in Arizona. At some point near Wheatfield Lake, Az., within the confines of the Navajo Indian Reservation, she pulled over to let the two out. The defendant, who was seated behind Ms. Slim, took one of the knives that he and Mitchell had purchased in Gallup, New Mexico and repeatedly stabbed Ms. Slim so he could use her truck for the planned robbery. A total of 33

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knife wounds were inflicted by Orsinger and Mitchell. After they were done stabbing her they pulled Ms. Slim over the seat and put her on the rear seat of the pickup. They also put Tiffany Lee in the rear seat with her grandmother.

Then they drove the truck into the Lukachukai Mountains within the confines of the Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona to get rid of the victims. Once there, Mitchell walked Tiffany Lee away from the truck. The defendant heard a scream and Mitchell called him over. Orsinger saw that the girl's throat had been cut. He watched Mitchell slash her throat for a second time. Then he heard Mitchell yell at her to "lay down and die" which she did. Mitchell and the defendant each forced large rocks out of the ground. The defendant dropped the first rock on her head and she cried out. They continued throwing rocks, each which weighed approximately 20 pounds, several times against her head until she was dead.

They left the bodies and drove the truck and parked it near a canyon behind Mitchell's grandfather's residence south of Round Rock, Arizona. It eventually was used in the robbery of Trading Post.

The medical examiner determined that Ms Slim died of multiple stab wounds and that Tiffany Lee died of blunt force trauma to her head which resulted in several fractures of her skull.

At some point the defendant and Mitchell also beheaded the victims and buried the parts in an attempt to prevent the victims' identification and their own arrests. They also burned the victims' clothing and personal papers.

The defendant is facing multiple life sentences and a maximum \$1,750,000 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Mary H. Murguia on December 8, 2003.

The co-defendant, Lezmond Mitchell, was sentenced to death on September 15, 2003 by Judge Mary Murguia based on a binding recommendation of the trial jury. Orsinger was not eligible for the death sentence because he was only 16 years old at the time of the offenses.

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On September 15, 2003 Orsinger was sentenced to 4 consecutive life sentences for his role in the August 18, 2001 car jack and double murders of David Begay and Jaspert Sam.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Navajo Tribal Police Department, Criminal Investigators with the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator and the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The prosecution is being handled by Vincent Q. Kirby and Kurt M. Altman, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-1062-PCT-MHM and CR-01-1072-OCT-FJM.  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-162

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